

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-18 are pending in this application. Claims 16-18 have been allowed. Applicant's would like to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 16-18.

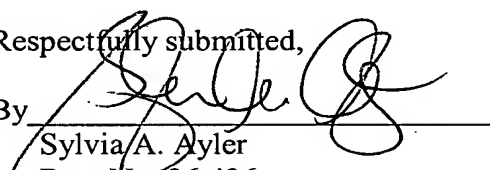
In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-15 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinct claim the invention. Specifically, the examiner states that there is no reaction step to prepare compounds of formulas IX and IXa from the formulas VIII or VIIIa and there is no period at the end of claim 1. To address the Examiner's concerns claim 1 has been amended to include Step D, which contains the steps to prepare IX and IXa from VIII or VIIIa and to insert a period at the end of the claim. Claim 8 has been canceled. No new matter has been added.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-15 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph for failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner states the term "leaving group" lacks description. Claim 1 has been amended to define R1 in accordance with the definition provided in the specification. No new matter has been added.

As a result of the amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the examiners concerns have been met and overcome. The examiner is therefore respectfully requested to issue a notice of allowance of the remaining claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone nubur provided below, if such would advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

By


Sylvia A. Ayler
Reg. No. 36,436
Attorney for Applicant

MERCK & CO., Inc.
P.O. Box 2000
Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907
(732) 594-4909

Date: June 5, 2007